

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SIG-02 /075 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:WTROBINSON:MEM

APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:HAHOLMES

OSD/ISA:COL. MCCARTHY

EUR/CE:GHUMPHREY

EUR/P:WGEHRON

EUR/NE:SWORREL

PM/ISP:CFLOWERREE

----- 112604

P R 222152Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

CINCLANT

USLOSACLANT

XMT AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS STATE 181745

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: XM-1 TANK SELECTION -- PRESS RELEASE

DOD PRESS RELEASE OF 22 JULY CONCERNING ARMY SELECTION OF
A CONTRACTOR FOR THE XM-1 TANK IS QUOTED FOR INFORMATION
AND APPROPRIATE USE:

BEGIN QUOTE:

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY MARTIN R. HOFFMANN ANNOUNCED TODAY
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THAT THE ARMY HAD DECIDED TO MAKE THE DECISION AS TO THE

WINNER OF THE ARMY XM-1 TANK COMPETITION LATER THIS YEAR AFTER THE TWO COMPETING CONTRACTORS, CHRYSLER CORPORATION AND GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION, SUBMIT ADDITIONAL ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS.

THIS ADDITIONAL STEP REPRESENTS AN EXTENSION OF THE VALIDATION PHASE OF THE XM-1 TANK PROGRAM AND WILL CALL FOR THE COMPANIES TO SUBMIT REVISED PROPOSALS IN WHICH EACH WILL BE ASKED TO BID ON THE BASIS OF BOTH ADVANCED ENGINE TECHNOLOGY AND NEW KEY COMPONENTS SELECTED AS THOSE WHICH DOMINATE FIELD MAINTENANCE AND LOGISTICS TANK SUPPORT IN THE FIELD AND WHICH WILL LEAD TO A HIGHER DEGREE OF STANDARDIZATION WITHIN NATO. THIS WOULD PERMIT THE FINAL

SELECTION TO BE MADE BEFORE THE END OF THE CALENDAR YEAR.

SECRETARY HOFFMAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE NEW REQUIREMENTS BEING SET BY THE U.S. ARMY WILL REFLECT THE INTENT OF BOTH A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) SIGNED BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (FRG) IN 1974 AND AN ADDENDUM TO THAT MOU WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

THE ORIGINAL MOU SEEKS MAXIMUM STANDARDIZATION OF THE TANKS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. IT CALLS FOR A COMPARATIVE EVALUATION OF THE FRG LEOPARD II TANK AND THE FINALLY SELECTED U.S. XM-1, WITH TESTING TO TAKE PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES FROM SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR. THE CONTEMPLATION OF THE ORIGINAL 1974 MOU WAS THAT, IN THE EVENT THAT THE LEOPARD II PROVES TO BE THE OVERALL SUPERIOR TANK FOR THE COST, THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY COULD RECOMMEND THE LEOPARD DESIGN FOR PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE PROPOSED ADDENDUM, DISCUSSED BETWEEN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DONALD RUMSFELD AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE GEORGE LEBER OF THE FRG EARLIER THIS MONTH, IS INTENDED, IN THE EVENT THAT A COMMON TANK FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES IS NOT ACHIEVED, TO ASSURE THAT MAXIMUM FEASIBLE STANDARDIZATION OF MAJOR COMPONENTS IS OBTAINED.

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WHICHEVER TANK IS ULTIMATELY PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES, THE ARMY EXPECTS DISTINCT ADVANTAGES OVER CURRENT TANKS.

INCREASED COMBAT CAPABILITY WILL BE DERIVED FROM A STABILIZED FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM INCORPORATING A LASER RANGE FINDER, COMPUTER AND DAY/NIGHT SIGHT WHICH WILL

AFFORD GREATER FIRST-ROUND HIT CAPABILITY AND PERMIT ACCURATE FIRE-ON-THE-MOVE. BY WAY OF DEFENSIVE ADVANTAGE, IN ADDITION TO OFFERING A LOW SILHOUETTE, THE NEW TANK CANDIDATES INCLUDE ADVANCED ARMOR TECHNIQUES WHICH ARE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE AGAINST ANTI-TANK WEAPONS.

INCREASED TANK PROTECTION WILL BE PROVIDED BY SPECIAL SURVIVABILITY MEASURES, SUCH AS SEPARATING THE CREW QUARTERS FROM THE FUEL TANKS BY ARMORED BULK HEADS AND SLIDING ARMORED DOORS TO ISOLATE THE CREW FROM THE STOWED AMMUNITION.

OTHER INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS ARE EXPECTED TO GIVE WHICHEVER TANK IS ULTIMATELY PRODUCED VASTLY SUPERIOR CROSS-COUNTRY MOBILITY AND RIDE. END QTE. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, PRESS RELEASES, CONTRACTS, ARMS PRODUCTION, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE181745
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WTROBINSON:MEM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760282-1062
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760731/aaaabavc.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <27 DEC 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: XM-1 TANK SELECTION -- PRESS RELEASE DOD PRESS RELEASE OF 22 JULY CONCERNING ARMY SELECTION OF
TAGS: MPOL, US, NATO
To: NATO POSTS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006